



CITY AT WORK

FALL 2009



City of Pleasant Hill

This City at Work Issue highlights the Public Works and Community Development Department public works activities within the City. The Public Works section is composed of two divisions: Engineering and Maintenance. The Engineering Division handles the construction inspection and contract administration for Capital Improvement Projects, such as traffic signals, sidewalks, street paving and storm drains. This Division also addresses traffic issues, encroachment permits for work on public property, floodplain issues, solid waste contract management (trash, recycling and green waste) and new residential and commercial subdivision development, including plan checking and inspections. The Maintenance Division takes care of City landscaping, temporary pothole repair, permanent repair of small potholes, pavement crack sealing, storm drain cleaning, street sweeping and City-owned public buildings (Downtown Parking Garage, City Hall, Public Service Center and Police Department).

Engineering Division

City Hall

100 Gregory Lane

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Phone (925) 671-5264

Fax (925) 676-1125

www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us/engineering

Maintenance Division

Public Services Center

310 Civic Drive

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Phone (925) 671-4646

Fax (925) 676-7628

Steve Wallace, Public Works and Community Development Director 671-5208

Engineering Staff Directory (area code 925)

Mario Moreno, City Engineer	671-5252
Annette Kaufmann, Administrative Secretary	671-5264
Shawn Knapp, Associate Engineer	671-5251
Roderick Wui, Associate Engineer	671-5261
Eric Hu, Associate Traffic Engineer	671-5203
Ann Page, Assistant Engineer	671-5260
Safa Juboori, Construction Inspector	671-5232

Maintenance Staff Directory (area code 925)

Robert Costa, Maintenance Superintendent	671-4656
Chris Heck, Administrative Secretary	671-4646
Mike Moore, Senior Maintenance Worker	671-5244

To email comments and concerns pertaining to public works operations, please go to the City of Pleasant Hill web site (www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us) and then use the CONTACT US link to access the staff directory.

Important Public Works Operations Numbers (area code 925)

Street Maintenance (potholes, storm drains, sweeping and landscaping)	671-4646
Traffic Issues (parking, signs, signals, striping and traffic calming)	671-5203
Capital Improvement Projects (pavement and storm system rehab)	671-5251
Street Pavement Program (pavement analysis and scheduling)	671-5251
Subdivision Development (grading, plan checking and inspections)	671-5261
Encroachment Permits (sidewalk, driveway, fences and utility repair)	671-5232

DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN RESPONSIBILITIES AT CROSSWALKS

When it comes down to pedestrian crosswalk safety, both the drivers and pedestrians have their fair share of responsibilities to ensure that the proper right-of-way was observed. According to the California Vehicle Code, the drivers have the responsibility of yielding the right-of-way to a pedestrian who is crossing within a marked pedestrian crosswalk, but it is the pedestrian's responsibility to use due care and wait for the adequate gap in traffic to step into a crosswalk. A moving vehicle is not required to stop for a pedestrian who is simply waiting on the side of a crosswalk (but not crossing).

Some common practices for drivers

- Respect the right-of-way of pedestrians. Always stop for any pedestrian crossing at corners or other crosswalks, even if the crosswalk is mid-block and at corners with or without traffic signals.
- Do not pass a car from behind that has stopped at a crosswalk. A pedestrian who was blocked by the stopped car may be crossing.
- Do not stop in a crosswalk, for it may place pedestrians at greater risk.
- If a pedestrian makes eye contact with you, he or she may be ready to cross the street. Yield to the pedestrian.

- Allow older pedestrians more time to cross the street.
- Drive within the posted speed limit.

Some common practices for pedestrians

Practice defensive walking and be aware of where others are going. Do NOT assume that you have the right-of-way.

Making eye contact with an on-coming driver does NOT mean that the driver will see you or yield the right-of-way. Drivers may be distracted or temporarily blinded by sun glare or light reflection.

- Be aware that hybrid and electric vehicles are virtually silent when running on electric power and may not be heard when approaching.
- Yield the right-of-way to vehicles when crossing at intersections where crosswalks are not marked.
- Do NOT "jaywalk" across a street between intersections, where no crosswalks are provided.
- Always obey traffic signals. When a signal first changes to green or "WALK" for you, look left, right, and then left again before crossing to make sure that there are no vehicles making a right turn.



Improvement Guidelines Within the Public Right-of-Way

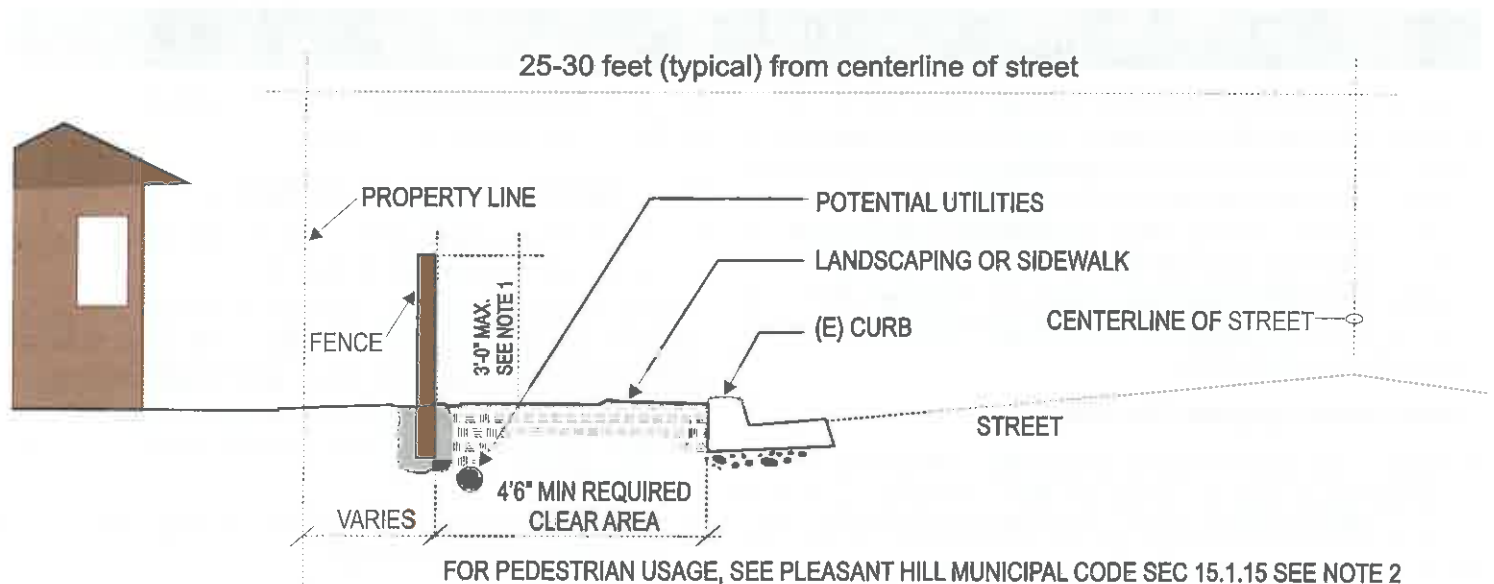
As a resident of Pleasant Hill, it is very important that you determine your property limits before you undertake your next home improvement project. As we have suggested, a number of residents have called the Engineering Division before undertaking costly projects in front of, or along side, their fronting property.

As you may be aware, the City's Right-of-Way (which includes all land which by deed, conveyance, agreement, easement, dedication, usage is reserved for or dedicated to the use of the general public for road or highway purposes) is typically 50 feet to 60 feet in width or 25 to 30 feet from the road centerline on most residential streets. The City reserves this area for future improvement projects such as drainage, sidewalks, roadway widening, utility improvements, among others. If you plan to Encroach on the Right-of-Way, meaning going on, over, or under, or using a right-of-way in a manner which prevents, obstructs, or interferes with the normal use of that way, you will first need to contact the Engineering Division to determine if a permit will be granted. Typical encroachments include:

1. Excavating or disturbing the rights-of-way
2. Erecting a fence of any type, material, and height within the right-of-way
3. Constructing a pathway, sidewalk, or driveway
4. Constructing on, over, under, or within the right-of-way a culvert or other surface drainage or subsurface drainage facility

5. Constructing a pond or water structure
6. Placing a sewer pipeline, water lateral, pipe, conduit, or cable
7. Constructing a structure, retaining wall, or similar encroachment
8. Placing or leaving any obstruction or impediment, including debris boxes or storage moving bins on a right-of-way

Remember, if you are building within 15 feet of the roadway shoulder or 10 feet behind a concrete curb and gutter or 5 feet behind the sidewalk, you are likely within the City's Right-of-Way and encroaching, which will require a permit before you commence any work. The Engineering Division will schedule a site visit with you to discuss your future project—please give us a call at 671-5264 to set up an appointment. Please remember that if you build without a permit you may be subject to the removal of the encroachment at your own cost.



Note 1. Any permanent fence (3 feet maximum) or structure within the City's Right of Way requires, if allowed, an Encroachment Permit from the Engineering Division. If a permit is granted, the City will request that the property owner remove the encroachment at property owner's expense, if the Right of Way is needed in the future for public improvements.

CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

For additional information about the following construction projects please visit the City's web site (www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us/projects) or contact the Engineering Division at 671-5264.

DESIGN/PLANNED

Buskirk Avenue Improvements Project Phase II

The Buskirk Avenue Improvement Phase II Project will provide for street widening improvements consistent with the Contra Costa Center Specific Plan. The project will widen the portion of Buskirk Avenue adjacent to the Crossroads Shopping Center from two to four lanes and complement Phase I improvements (Monument Boulevard to 300 feet south of Lamkin Lane) completed in the winter of 2005.

The improvements will consist of providing additional travel lanes, improving roadway alignment, and providing new pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project will realign the roadway to provide four continuous lanes from Monument Boulevard to Hookston Road (through Elmira Road) then extending west to Buskirk Avenue thereby eliminating the current "S" curve. This will accommodate the future growth and expansion of the Crossroads Shopping Center. The proposed widening project will increase capacity, upgrade signal operations, and improve circulation in the area.

The estimated \$11 million Buskirk Avenue Improvement Project will be funded by Measure J, Traffic Mitigation Funds, and Redevelopment Funds. Construction is anticipated in the spring of 2011. Engineering design plans are currently underway.

Police Department Phase II Dispatch

Police facilities front office/dispatch upgrades repairs

Staff is finalizing the design plans to upgrade the lobby and dispatch areas of the police facility. The police facility was constructed in 1981; the current space for the dispatch center and staff configuration are not designed to accommodate the use of modern technology and computer equipment for our dispatch personnel. The new improvements will redistribute, increase, and enhance the current office space to meet the operational, functional, and ergonomic needs of the Police Department emergency response staff. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2010.

UNDERWAY

Contra Costa Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation— 2nd Avenue south to Golf Club Road.

The City is resurfacing Contra Costa Boulevard (CCB) between 2nd Avenue South and I-680 Freeway off-ramp (near the Target Store entrance). The project was awarded \$842,000 in American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant monies as part of a Federal Stimulus Package. Construction work began in August. The major paving work is scheduled (weather and temperature permitting) to take place during the nighttime hours in order to minimize the impact to motorists and businesses. The construction scope include pavement grinding, pavement failure repairs, sidewalk and concrete repairs, new traffic striping, center median work, handicap accessible curb ramps, and new pavement overlay and incidentals. Also included in this project was some limited concrete sidewalk and handicap accessible curb ramps work along CCB between Cottonwood Drive and Chilpancingo Parkway. The project is anticipated to be completed in early November 2009.



—continued on page 4



Citywide traffic speed survey update

The City is in the process of updating its citywide speed survey per the requirements of the California State Vehicle Code and the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for the proper setting of posted speed limits. Per Federal and State requirements, citywide speed surveys are required to be updated every 7 to 10 years, and speed limits are required to be set within 5 mph of the 85th percentile speed determined as part of an engineering and traffic speed survey. Local agencies are prohibited from issuing any speed related citations should there be any speed limits that are "artificially" reduced. The speed surveys are scheduled to be conducted in the month of November during non-holiday weeks, and the final speed limits are to be reviewed by the City's Traffic Safety Commission and adopted by City Council in December 2009.

COMPLETED

Curb ramp installation project

The City hired Cinray Construction to install 26 new curb ramps in the Strandwood School area. This project provided for the installation of new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramps along the existing corridors in this neighborhood. High priority areas targeted for this project were routes to schools as well as sidewalks that did not have existing curb ramps. The new ramps will provide access to sidewalks for pedestrians with physical disabilities. The current standard requires new ramps to have a detectable warning surface mat on the ramp landing area that warns pedestrians with visual disabilities that they are about to enter a roadway with vehicular traffic. The project began in August 2009 and was completed in early October 2009.

Contra Costa Boulevard sidewalk project
(Ellinwood Drive to Taylor Boulevard)



The City has completed the installation of a new concrete sidewalk along the west side of Contra Costa Boulevard, between Taylor Boulevard and Ellinwood Drive. As part of the sidewalk project, the existing striped crosswalk at the intersection of Contra Costa Boulevard and Harriet Drive has also been removed. The purpose of the project is to provide a safer and ADA compliant pedestrian facility between the two signalized crossings at Taylor Boulevard and Ellinwood Drive and to eliminate the existing non-controlled crosswalk at Harriet Drive. New landscaping improvements were planted along the back of the new sidewalk section, and new wooden fencing was installed along the back of various adjacent residential properties. The project was funded by a Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant secured by the City in 2007.

Citywide pedestrian countdown signal module upgrade

The City has completed the installation of 78 new pedestrian countdown signal modules at over 21 city operated traffic signals. City staff had secured \$35,000 in State Office of Traffic Safety grant in 2008 to purchase and install the countdown modules, and the updated modules are designed to reduce confusion by giving pedestrians information about how much crossing



time remains at the respective signal phase to cross the street. Studies have shown that countdown signal modules can help reduce the number of stragglers in the street when the signal changes, thus increasing the overall safety for pedestrians at signal controlled crosswalks.

2009 Street Resurfacing Project Phase I and Phase II

The City of Pleasant Hill resurfaced 28 residential streets and one collector street in the Sherman Acres and Gregory Gardens subdivisions this summer with a Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Cape (RAC) Seal (rubberized chip seal followed by a microsurfacing seal). Funded in part by a Grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), the Grant Program provides assistance to local governments to fund RAC chip seal projects and the opportunity to divert waste tires from landfill disposal. The 2009 Street Resurfacing Project utilized approximately 91,000 square yards of RAC chip seal, which recycled approximately 6,467 used rubber tires into the new roadway surface. As well as recycling used tires, the use of the RAC chip seal in lieu of conventional pavement materials eliminates the need for a more expensive resurfacing treatment, which allows the City to rehabilitate more streets.





PLANNED

Pleasant Hill Road minor subdivision

The City has approved a 3 lot minor subdivision located at 2191 Pleasant Hill Road. The project will include partial demolition of the existing home, minor grading, and construction of two new homes, a private driveway and new concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk along Pleasant Hill Road. In addition, the project will include new storm drain improvements that will treat and detain stormwater runoff before it enters the City's storm drain and creek system.

Diablo Valley College Transit Center

Contra Costa County Connection has been working with the City and Diablo Valley College (DVC) in the planning and design of the upcoming Diablo Valley College Transit Center project. The project will construct a new transit center at the north main DVC parking lot area, just south of the Old Quarry Road/Golf Club Road intersection. The new transit center will serve as a main transit hub for the area surrounding DVC and will provide a designated area for passenger pickup, drop-off, and bus turn around that is separate from the rest of the DVC vehicle traffic. New decorated bus shelters will also be constructed as part of the project. The project is tentatively scheduled for spring 2010 construction.

UNDERWAY

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Expansion of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, located at 1601 Mary Drive, began in the fall of 2009. This project includes construction of a new 5,950 square foot stand alone single-story multi-purpose facility, as well as various site improvements, such as landscaping and parking lot revisions. In addition, the church will also construct a new drainage system where the runoff will be routed through landscape areas before entering the underground pipe system. The runoff will then be stored in an oversized drain pipe and metered out so that it does not impact the flood capacity of the existing creek system. Construction is scheduled to be completed in summer 2010.

COMPLETED

Oak Park Christian Center

Expansion of the Oak Park Christian Center located at 2073 Oak Park Boulevard began in late 2008. The project includes construction of a 16,000 square foot sanctuary. Other site improvements include underground detention vaults that are designed to store additional stormwater runoff and miscellaneous landscape improvements. Off site improvements include the relocation of the crosswalk at Wendell Lane and construction of additional shared parking spaces on the adjacent school property. The new sanctuary is scheduled to be opened by early November 2009.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Recycled water coming to the Police Department facility for landscape use

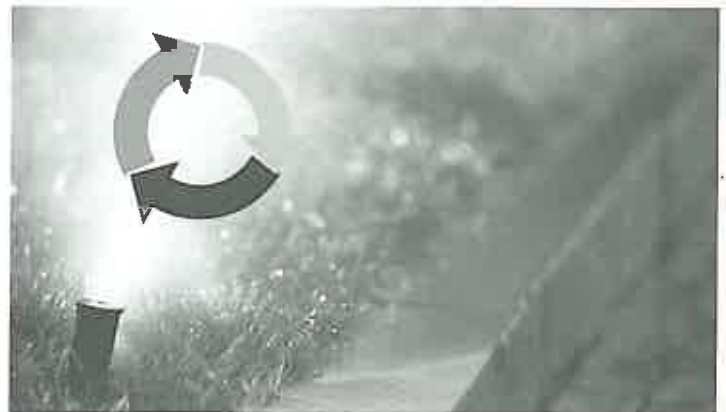
City Maintenance staff has been meeting with Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) and the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) to convert the landscaping at the Police Department facility (330 Civic Drive) from potable water (tap water) to recycled water (used water that has been reclaimed and cleaned). This process has taken several months to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met before the installation can be approved.

More than 10 years ago CCCSD began an ambitious project to supply recycled water to specific areas of Concord and Pleasant Hill to be used for irrigation, landscaping, and industrial purposes. In 1998, CCCSD expanded the recycled water distribution system into the Pleasant Hill community and added golf courses, parks, and city and college campuses to the growing list of recycled water customers. Currently the City uses recycled water in landscape medians on limited areas that include Contra Costa Boulevard, Golf Club Road, and Chilpancingo Parkway. This new expansion to the Police Department facility will take place in the next 90 days.

Currently the Police Department landscaping uses approximately 8,000 gallons per day during the hot summer months to water over ½ acre of landscape that includes numerous large shade and flowering trees, shrubs, groundcover, and turf area. When the irrigation system

is converted to recycled water in spring 2010, the savings (over \$4,000/year) will be approximately 30 percent from what is currently being spent on potable tap water. During current and future drought years the monetary savings will be significant due to the drought surcharges currently in effect.

Water is always in short supply in California. The need for water is only expected to grow. Using recycled water reduces the dependence on freshwater. Water recycling provides an additional viable source of water to meet our growing demands. By using recycled water for landscaping, we will continue to use a reliable, safe source of water for each appropriate use.



UTILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

UNDERWAY

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD)—Sherman Acres II Subdivision Main Replacement Projects

CCWD is scheduled to start construction in late November on the replacement of 6,000 feet of water mains and multiple water valves within the Sherman Acres II subdivision as part of a larger CCWD project. Other Pleasant Hill streets include Anelda Drive, Belle Court, Celia Drive, Dawn Drive, East Vivian Drive, Phylis Drive, and Marta Drive. The CCWD hired contractor will be installing the new 6-inch and 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) water pipes by open cut street trenching. Street restoration will include asphalt paving over the trench area, followed by slurry sealing over the roadway. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2010. For additional information, please contact CCWD Public Affairs at 688-8109.

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) Phase 1 Sewer Renovation Project

This project provides for the upgrade of sewer pipes at six sites within the City—Grayson Road, Greenwood Drive, Gregory Lane, Third Avenue South, Trelany Road, and Vincent Road. In this first phase CCCSD will renovate 2,600 feet of 6 and 8-inch sewers using open cut, pipe-bursting, and directional drilling replacement methods. Construction began in mid-October and is likely to continue through spring of 2010. Motorists should expect some delays caused by traffic control and construction activities. Affected neighborhoods have been notified construction via mailings and project maps are available on CCCSD's website (www.centralsan.org/construction). For additional information contact CCCSD's Community Affairs Representative at 229-7200.



Work being done on the sewer pipe upgrade at Trelany Lane

COMPLETED

East Bay Municipal Utility District — Grayson Road, Sunset Road Tyler Terrace Projects

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) under the Infra Structural Renewal Program replaced 1,800 feet of water main lines at three locations this past spring: 1) Grayson Road between Tammy Lane and Heritage Hills Drive; 2) Sunset Road between Valley View Road and Strand Avenue and 3) Tyler Terrace tying into Slater Avenue- both private streets within Pleasant Hill..



Important Utility Emergency Phone Numbers



Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (sewer emergencies)	(925) 933-0955
Comcast (TV cable customer service and repair emergencies)	(800) 945-2288
Contra Costa Water District (water emergencies)	(925) 688-8095 (weekdays) or 688-8374 (all other times)
Diablo Vista Water District (private residence)	(925) 938-9510
East Bay Municipal Utility District (water emergencies)	(866) 403-2683
Martinez Water District (water emergencies) (Martinez Police Dispatch)	(925) 372-3440
Pacific Gas & Electric Company (gas and electric emergency)	(800) 743-5000
AT&T (customer repair service)	(800) 310-2355